New standards imposed on leather goods

@1026. PROF B. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether rigid new standards have been imposed for the finished leather goods as per the recommendations of the Pande Committee on leather and leather manufacturers;

(b) whether it is a fact that semi-processed leather is being exported in the garb of finished leather as the earlier ISI standard of 1981 is too liberal; and

(c) whether Government are contemplating to revise the decision in the light of the difficulties faced by the small scale sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) to (c) Stricter guidelines for identification of finished leather for export were enforced with effect from 1st September, 1985 so as to plug the loophole of semi-finished/crust leather being exported as finished leather under the 1981 guidelines.

Some individual manufacturer-exporters of leather and All India Small Scale Tanners and Exporters Association, Madras, challenged the Government's above decision in Madras and Hyderabad High Courts and the matter is *sub judice*.

Extinction of the medicinal plants in the country

@@1027. SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that about fourteen medicinal plants in the country are facing extinction; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the steps that Government have taken to save them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

A list (*see* below) of some of the medicinal plants identified by the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) facing extinction in the wild in India is annexed. Some rare plants of medicinal importance are being cultivated in the Indian Botanic Garden of Botanical Survey of India at Calcutta and Experimental Gardens located at different parts of India, in order to evolve methdologies for their propagation, maliplication, acclimatization and suitability for large-scale cultivation. A Scheme of Captive Breeding of Endangered Plant Species has also been sanctioned recently and is being implemented by the BSI. Besides, the organisations under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare are engaged in scientific propagation of medicinal plants. Trade and commerce in endangered plants are not permitted under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

LIST

Certain important medicinal plants identified by the Botanical Survey of India facing extinction in the wild in India

1. ACONITUM DEINORRHIZUM *stapf.* (Ranunculaceae) Indian Aconite: Originally discovered from Bashahr

@Previously unstarred Question 63 transferred from the 27th July, 1987.

@@Previously unstarred Question 338 transferred from the 29th July 1987.